

VOLUNTEER
Electoral League

OF THE
City of Montreal.

ITS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS,
ANNUAL REPORT 1892-3,
THE LAW REGARDING CORRUPT PRACTICES
AND MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL
REQUIREMENTS,
OFFICERS.

THIRD EDITION.

OCTOBER, 1893.

18

1
the *V*

2

d

re

ti

to

v

ap

p

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
Volunteer Electoral League
OF MONTREAL.

1. *Name.* This organization shall be known as the *Volunteer Electoral League of Montreal.*

2. Its objects shall be :—

- a.* To revise and perfect the voters' lists.
- b.* To encourage the nomination of candidates of known integrity for public office.
- c.* To use all *legitimate* means to secure their return.
- d.* To prevent fraudulent and dishonest practices in elections.
- e.* To cause to be followed up and prosecuted, to the full extent of the law, those detected in any violation of the Election Act.
- f.* To suggest and promote any legislation, approved by the League, having for its object the purity of Elections.

Explanations.

I. This Organization being purely non-political, shall engage as a body only in municipal matters.

II. All services rendered by this Organization, whether as a body or through individuals, shall be purely voluntary; any donation from friends to the cause will be used to defray the necessary running expenses of the Association.

III. This Organization wishes it plainly understood that it is not a self-help Society for the political advancement of its own Members, and that it has no desire to nominate candidates, unless absolutely forced to it by the apathy of the Citizens.

IV. It is not intended that this Organization shall enter the field where both Candidates are good men, or where both are objectionable, reserving its strength for such contests as contain in the opinion of the League, a plain issue between a good and bad nominee.

3. The Officers shall be as follows :—President, 2 Vice-Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and a Council.

a. The Council shall consist of nine Members (besides the Officers), having the power to appoint Sub-committees, when necessary, and define the

work. The disbursement of all dues and contributions to the working expenses of the League shall be left to the discretion of the Council. These working expenses may include the employment, when necessary, of a permanent Secretary and Assistants. No paid worker can be a member. Five Council members form a quorum.

4. *Membership.* This shall consist of three classes, viz :—Active, Associate and Sustaining.

a. Active Membership shall be understood to mean the taking of full part in all the election work of the League, before and at the time of elections. Applications for Active Membership shall be presented to the Council in writing, endorsed by two Members. A two-third majority of the Council shall be necessary to elect. Members shall sign the Constitution upon their election. The annual fee for Active Membership shall be 50c. Any member, after a fair hearing, may be ballotted out of the League by the same majority in council as that by which he was admitted.

b. Associate Members are those who, while not willing to take part in the regular work of the League, are on occasion willing to assist at certain elections. An Associate Member is expected to be in attendance as a worker on voting day. No fee is required, but an Associate Member shall have no vote on the policy of the League.

c. Sustaining Members are those who contribute to the financial assistance of the League the sum of \$5.00 or upwards.

5. *Meetings.* *a.* The annual meeting for the reception of the Treasurer's, Council's, and other reports, and election of Office-bearers, shall take place on the second Tuesday of May in each year.

b. Ordinary meetings shall be held once a month when there is business to be transacted, or oftener if deemed necessary.

c. Special meetings may be called by the President at any time at the request of four of the members.

d. Seven members shall form a quorum.

e. Members shall make public the business of a meeting, only as authorized by a two-thirds vote of that meeting.

6. The above Constitution may be amended or altered at any time by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting, notice of the motion having been given at a previous meeting.

AN

In
teache
ing th
o its
T
to prac
The ex
it that
organiz
was ad
D
distrib
that, f
contes
wards
were
where
Leagu
in the
mined
city's
city o
senta
field
some
ham,
this
field.
to M
circu

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VOLUNTEER ELECTORAL LEAGUE, MARCH 16, 1893.

Inasmuch as "The Volunteer Electoral League" has now reached the close of its first year of active existence, it seems fitting that at this time some report of its work should be submitted to its friends.

The idea upon which this movement was based was first put to practical test in the provincial elections held in March, 1892. The experiment was so satisfactory to those who participated in it that a meeting was called on April 18th to consider a form of organization, and on April 26th, 1892, the present Constitution was adopted. (*Afterwards revised Sept. 26th, 1893.*)

During the following summer little further was done than to distribute information and solicit recruits. It was early seen that, for the present at least, the work would be confined to civil contests, and in the fall of 1892 a complete voters' list of the wards was obtained and work commenced upon it. Ward maps were made, polling divisions marked off, and it was ascertained where bribery and personation were largely practised. At the League's November meeting the records of the English aldermen in the then existing Council were reviewed and opposition determined upon against such as had already voted contrary to the city's interests. St. Lawrence Ward, as being within the capacity of the League, and having a sufficiently undesirable representation to demand attention, was then selected as the special field for action. It was hoped that the League would learn of some desirable candidate willing to oppose Alderman Cunningham, but after patient enquiry among the electors of the Ward, this organization was compelled to bring candidates into the field. Deeming a general election probable a triple requisition, to Messrs. J. Y. Gilmour, R. Wilson Smith and Samuel Bell, was circulated by volunteers, and about 325 signatures obtained.

On the 26th of December the Municipal Reform Association was formed and the League was urged to unite with this organization. As the lines of work for the two bodies were somewhat dissimilar, it was thought best to keep the societies wholly distinct, and such members of the League as had been invited to hold office in the new association withdrew their names.

When it was thought that single elections held in February were likely to be legal, Mr. R. Wilson Smith, under great pressure, consented to allow his name to be put in nomination in opposition to that of Alderman Cunningham.

The following day Messrs. Smith, Cunningham and O'Brien were formally nominated in opposition to each other. During the next six days an active canvass for Mr. Smith was prosecuted by the League.

The time being short it was now found necessary to procure a few paid assistants to act under the directions of the members of the League. Within six days over two thousand voters were seen, and volunteers secured to properly man every poll. Alderman Cunningham then resigned, and Mr. T. C. O'Brien obligingly withdrawing his name, the field was left to the League's candidate, and on Feb. 1st Mr. R. Wilson Smith was returned by acclamation.

The thanks of this organization are due to the choir of St. Martin's Church, who supplied a volunteer contingent of 20 men, and to the St. George's Snowshoe Club, which promised a reinforcement still more numerous. Altogether nearly one hundred men stood ready to be in attendance at the polls had an opportunity been given them. In this connection should be acknowledged also the offer of the Citizens' League (under date of February 1st) to prosecute cases of impersonation, and to place its law firm at the disposal of the Volunteer Electoral League. An ample fund was also subscribed for the detection and prosecution of cases of bribery.

On being relieved from further responsibility in St. Lawrence, a portion of the League's forces were transferred to St. Ann's Ward, to aid in the struggle against Ald. Nolan. About one-third of this large ward was entrusted to this contingent, and in three days 1,068 voters were interviewed and identified. On

Feb.
with
to pa
while
had n
attem

eral e
Lawr
requi
circul
of the

reach
princ
its me
stage.
comm

to co
the ti
obsta
First
Reall
press
recog
in mo
nomi
organ
only
bring
betra
Leag

is th
can
and
the

Association
this organ-
e somewhat
ties wholly
n invited to
nes.

n February
nder great
nomination

nd O'Brien
. During
prosecuted

to procure
e members
oters were
l. Alder-
c. O'Brien
t to the
Smith was

ir of St.
nt of 20
promised
early one
lls had an
ould be
der date
d to place
League.
nd prose-

awrence,
St. Ann's
out one-
t, and in
ed. On

Feb. 1, five polls were manned entirely by volunteer workers, with private sleighs, and although desperate attempts were made to pass the League's scrutineers, but five votes were telegraphed, while *thirty-three* attempts were prevented. Had the League had more time to verify its identification work, these successful attempts would also doubtless have been frustrated.

After Feb. 1, as long as there seemed any prospect of general elections, work was continued on the voters' list of St. Lawrence Ward, and had the desired legislation been granted, requisition for three prominent citizens would have been in circulation in every polling division within twenty-four hours of the bill becoming law.

So much for retrospect. The campaign, though not as far reaching as desired, has been of great value to the League. Its principles have received the endorsement of public sentiment; its methods have passed from the experimental to the accepted stage. It needs only to expand to be of great use to the community.

It now behooves this League, in general meeting assembled, to consider how it may lay foundations wide and deep against the time of general elections in 1894. Having learned where the obstacles lie, measures must be taken to overcome them in future. First and foremost is the difficulty of securing suitable candidates. Really desirable men are rarely anxious for civic honors. Great pressure needs oftentimes to be brought to bear to make them recognize their duty in this respect. This League must early set in motion the proper machinery to induce desirable men to accept nomination. It is wholly foreign to the intention of this organization to force any candidates of its own upon the citizens; only in the event of conspicuous failure on the part of citizens to bring out desirable opposition to aldermen who have flagrantly betrayed their trust or neglected the city's interests, will the League put nominations in the field.

The second matter to which careful attention must be given is the raising of a citizens' fund. With this a permanent secretary can be employed, devoting his time to check the voters' lists and preparing the work for a campaign. This fund will enable the work of identification to be properly prosecuted in all the

English-speaking wards, making it possible for desirable men to be elected at little or no expense to themselves. It will also permit the League, as an independent body, to prosecute breakers of the election laws.

Thirdly, the membership must be enlarged ; and to this end it is proposed that the Constitution be so amended as to admit of Sustaining and Associate members, the former those who subscribe to the funds, the latter those who will volunteer assistance on election day. It is hoped, also, that ward committees can be formed to serve in each division as a nucleus for an association similar to the parent one.

This report is submitted in full confidence that the Volunteer Electoral League is on the eve of great success. It has within it the germ of a powerful movement to redeem this city from the sway of the "boodler" and the "heeler," and give the management of civic affairs into the hands of honest citizens, where it belongs. All that is needed is work, constant work, on the part of the membership, with abundant enthusiasm.

Treasurer's Statement, Oct. 1st, 1893.

To donations received in cash	666.50
Disbursements to date	565.96
Balance in hand,	\$100.54

TABULATED RESULTS OF THE ST. ANNS WARD CONTEST, FEBRUARY 1ST, 1893.

Report of the five polls watched by the Volunteer Electoral League,
showing the number of **personations** prevented.

	Names on List.....	No. of Votes cast.....	No. of Votes not cast.....	McKEILL.....	NOLAN.....	Spoiled Ballots.....	Sworn.....	Refused to swear, therefore Personators checked.	Successful Personation.....
POLL I.									
*3 St. Henry..	} 290	159	131	98	61	3	9	3	1
Divisions									
6, 7 and 8.									
POLL II.									
*28 Wellington	} 150	97	53	61	36	7	15	5	0
Divisions									
2 and 3.									
POLL III.									
*32 Ottawa ...	} 242	184	58	64	120	3	17	11	1
Divisions									
4, 5 and 6.									
POLL IV.									
*675 St. Paul..	} 162	99	63	45	54	2	13	4	0
Divisions									
9 and 15.									
POLL V.									
*158 Wellington	} 224	149	75	66	83	4	28	10	3
Divisions									
10, 11 and 12.									
Totals.....	1068	689	380	334	354	19	82	33	5

*Situation of Poll.

sirable men to
It will also
to prosecute

nd to this end
as to admit
those who sub-
eer assistance
nittees can be
n. association

he Volunteer
It has within
his city from
nd give the
est citizens,
ant work, on
sm.

..666.50
..565.96

\$100.54

Extract from the Charter of the City of Montreal.

Corrupt practices. **36.** The clauses of the Quebec Election Act, numbered from articles 408 to 426 both inclusive, and from 431 to 435 both inclusive, of the Revised Statutes, having reference to corrupt practices at elections, the punishment thereof, and matters incidental thereto, shall apply to all elections under this act.

Corrupt practices defined. Any act or offence punishable under any of the provisions of articles 408, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420 and 421, of the said Revised Statutes, shall be corrupt practices within the meaning of this act.

Arrest of persons unlawfully voting. *Every person, who, at any election for mayor or alderman for the said city or for any ward thereof, shall illegally endeavor to vote or who shall vote for and instead of another elector, may be arrested on view by the returning officer or by any justice of the peace in the said city, or by any other peace officer or constable present at such election, or on warrant issued by any justice of the peace; and the person so arrested shall be taken to and kept in a safe keeping or confined in the common goal of the district of Montreal until the end or close of the election, and until good and sufficient security be given that such person so arrested shall appear and answer to the charge to be preferred against him in that respect, before the Recorder's court; and every such person shall, upon conviction of the offence*

Fine. *aforesaid, incur and pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, and in default of immediate payment shall be liable to an imprisonment not exceeding three months in the common goal, for each and every such offence, unless the said fine be previously paid.*

Extracts from the Quebec Election Act.

Voters receiving gifts, &c. before or during an election. **410. 1.** Every elector who, before or during an election, directly or indirectly, himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives, agrees or contracts for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration, office, place or employment, for himself or any other person, for voting or agreeing to vote, or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting, at any election;

Or, after an election. **2.** Every person, who, after any election, directly or indirectly, himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives any money, gift, loan, or valuable consideration, office, place or employment, for having voted or refrained from voting, or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting, at any election;

Bribery. Shall be deemed guilty of **bribery** and shall be punishable accordingly.

Penal

to a p
fault c

Subor

false c
act, s

Penal

Perso

name
fictiti2. V
same c
again3. V
person

Penal

five hu
(See aQuali
of ele

Prop

the a
yearl
owne
vote
prop
quali

Penalty. **414.** Any person guilty of any of the acts of bribery mentioned in articles 408, 410, 411, 412, and 413 shall be liable to a penalty of two hundred dollars, or imprisonment for six months in default of payment.

Subornation. **418.** Every person, who, in any manner, induces or constrains, or attempts to induce or constrain any one to take a false oath, in any matter in which an oath is required in virtue of the present act, shall, for the purposes of this act, over and above any other punishment to which he may be liable for such offence, be liable to a fine of two hundred dollars, or an imprisonment of six months in default of payment.

Personation. **419. 1.** Whosoever, during the voting at an election, applies for a ballot paper, or presents himself to vote in the name of some other person, whether such name be that of a living, dead, or fictitious person ;

2. Whosoever, having already voted at an election, applies during the same election for another ballot paper in his own name or presents himself again to vote ;

3. Whosoever aids, incites, counsels or facilitates the commission, by any person whomsoever, of any infraction of the provisions of this article ;

Penalty. Shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence of **personation** and shall be punishable accordingly by a penalty of five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for six months in default of payment. (See article 56 of City Charter.)

WHO ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE.

TITLE V.

MUNICIPAL ELECTORS—VOTERS' LIST—REVISION OF THE LIST.

Qualification of electors. **30.** The following persons, being of the full age of twenty-one years, are entitled to be registered upon the voters' list for any ward, and when so registered, to vote at elections to be held under the provisions of this act, namely :

Proprietors. **1.** Every male person entered on the last assessment roll in force, as the owner of immovable property in such ward, of the assessed value of three hundred dollars or upwards, or of the assessed yearly value of thirty dollars or upwards ; and if such immovable property is owned by several persons *par indivis*, each of them shall be entitled to a vote in respect thereof, provided the proportion of the assessed value of the property corresponding to his share thereof amounts to a sum sufficient to qualify him as a voter under the provisions hereof ;

Husband of a woman under law of separation as to property. The husband of any woman under the law of separation as to property, when she is seized and possessed, as proprietor or usufructuary, of immovable property, of the assessed value of three hundred dollars or more ; or where she does business or has a place of business, which renders her subject to the payment of the business tax ;

Widows and spinsters. Widows and spinsters shall have the same rights, as to voting, as are conferred upon male persons who are proprietors by this subsection, subject to the same conditions ;

Tenants. 2. Every male person, being an inhabitant householder in the city, whose name is entered on the last assessment roll in force, as the tenant of a dwelling-house, or part of a dwelling-house, in the ward for which such list is made, of the assessed value of three hundred dollars or upwards, or of the assessed yearly value of thirty dollars or upwards ;

Persons keeping office or place of business. 3. Every male person, though neither an owner or householder, who, either individually or jointly, as a co-partner with any other person, is entered on the last assessment roll in force as the tenant or occupant of any warehouse, counting-house, shop, office or place of business in the city, provided that such warehouse, counting-house, shop, office or place of business, if occupied by the said person individually, be assessed at a value not less than three hundred dollars, or at a yearly value of not less than thirty dollars ; or if occupied by him as a co-partner, that his proportion or share thereof be not of less value than the amounts aforesaid respectively, according to the assessed value thereof.

eparation as
s proprietor
essed value
oes business
bjeet to the

rights, as to
are proprie-
tions ;

useholder in
sment roll in
house, in the
ree hundred
s or upwards ;

ner or house-
a co-partner
essment roll
se, counting-
ity, provided
f business, if
not less than
irty dollars ;
are thereof be
ording to the

Office Bearers.

President, H. B. AMES.

Vice-President, J. W. BEALL.

Corresponding Secretary, . . . J. F. BANNISTER.
12 University St.

Recording Secretary, T. J. DAWSON.

Treasurer, W. C. FINLEY.

Council.

W. W. BREWIS.

A. O. DAWSON.

D. S. FRIEDMAN.

ROBT. GREIG.

WATSON GRIFFIN.

R. G. HOOD.

R. H. SEABROOK.

G. W. STEPHENS, JR.

CARL WARNECKE.

Motto:

"Every man is individually responsible for just so much evil as his efforts might prevent."